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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,684	11/30/2000	James Joseph Brodi JR.	DP-301216	9238

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EXAMINER

LEE, EDMUND H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1732

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/805,684	Applicant(s) BRODI ET AL.	
	Examiner EDMUND H. LEE	Art Unit 1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-16 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/16/04 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jogan et al (USPN 5429786) in view of Masui et al (USPN 5053179). In regard to claim 1, Jogan et al teach the basic claimed process including a method of making an interior trim panel for a vehicle (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); providing a mold having a first half and a second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); moving a slide to an extended position on the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); closing the mold (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); moving the slide to a retracted position (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a

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second side of the cavity to form the interior trim panel (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10). However, Jogan et al do not teach using a slide having a recess; and disposing a blade on the first half in the recess. Masui et al teach a method of making an interior trim panel for a vehicle (figs 12-14); providing a mold having a mold having a first half and a second half (figs 12-14); moving a slide having a recess to an extended position (figs 12-14); and closing the mold and disposing a blade in the recess (figs 12-14). Jogan et al and Masui et al are combinable because they are analogous with respect to using extendable slides for making a composite trim panel for a vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the slide with recess and the blade that is disposed into the recess of the slide as taught by Masui et al into the process of Jogan et al in order to form a trim panel having aesthetically pleasing demarcation lines. In regard to claims 2, 7,8,9,10,11, and 12, such are taught by Jogan et al (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60, and fig 10). In regard to loading the trim blank into a trim loading system for cooperating with the mold, such is well-known in the molding art as an effective way for positioning a preform within a mold cavity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load the blank of Jogan et al onto a trim loading system in order to effectively position the blank within the mold cavity and maintain the position of the blank during the molding process.

4. Claims 13-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jogan et al (USPN 5429786) in view of Masui et al (USPN 5053179). In regard to claim 13, Jogan et al teach the basic claimed process including a method of

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making an interior trim panel for an inner panel of a vehicle (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); providing a mold having a first half and a second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); moving a slide to an extended position on the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); closing the mold (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); moving the slide to a retracted position (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into the mold and forcing the molten plastic material into a second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the interior trim panel (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10). However, Jogan et al do not teach using a slide having a recess; and disposing a blade on the first half in the recess. Masui et al teach a method of making an interior trim panel for a vehicle (figs 12-14); providing a mold having a mold having a first half and a second half (figs 12-14); moving a slide having a recess to an extended position (figs 12-14); and closing the mold and disposing a blade in the recess (figs 12-14). Jogan et al and Masui et al are combinable because they are analogous with respect to using extendable slides for making a composite trim panel for a vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the slide with recess and the blade that is disposed into the recess of the slide as taught by Masui et al into the process of Jogan et al in order to form a trim panel having aesthetically pleasing demarcation lines. In regard to claims 14, 18 and 19, such are taught by Jogan et al (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10). In regard to extruding the thermoplastic material onto the core of the mold, such is well-known in

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the molding art in order to effectively load a mold cavity with a molding material.

Further, it should be mentioned that extruding and injecting are well-known substitutable alternatives for loading a mold cavity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to deposit the molten thermoplastic material onto the core by extrusion rather than injection since they are substitutable alternatives. In regard to loading the trim blank into a trim loading system for cooperating with the mold, such is well-known in the molding art as an effective way for positioning a preform within a mold cavity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load the blank of Jogan et al onto a trim loading system in order to effectively position the blank within the mold cavity and maintain the position of the blank during the molding process.

5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jogan et al (USPN 5429786) in view of Masui et al (USPN 5053179). In regard to claim 1, Jogan et al teach the basic claimed process including a method of making a door trim panel for attachment to an inner panel of a door of a vehicle (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); providing a mold having a first half and a second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); extending a slide to an extended position on the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); closing the mold (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); retracting the slide to a retracted position (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10); and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a second side of the cavity and forcing the molten plastic

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material into the second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the door trim panel (col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60; fig 10). However, Jogan et al do not teach using a slide having a recess; and disposing a blade on the first half in the recess. Masui et al teach a method of making an interior trim panel for a vehicle (figs 12-14); providing a mold having a mold having a first half and a second half (figs 12-14); moving a slide having a recess to an extended position (figs 12-14); and closing the mold and disposing a blade in the recess (figs 12-14). Jogan et al and Masui et al are combinable because they are analogous with respect to using extendable slides for making a composite trim panel for a vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the slide with recess and the blade that is disposed into the recess of the slide as taught by Masui et al into the process of Jogan et al in order to form a trim panel having aesthetically pleasing demarcation lines. In regard to claims 2, 7,8,9,10,11, and 12, such are taught by Jogan et al at col 3, ln 50-col 5, ln 60, and fig 10. In regard to loading the trim blank into a trim loading system for cooperating with the mold, such is well-known in the molding art as an effective way for positioning a preform within a mold cavity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load the blank of Jogan et al onto a trim loading system in order to effectively position the blank within the mold cavity and maintain the position of the blank during the molding process. In regard to extruding the thermoplastic material onto the core of the mold, such is well-known in the molding art in order to effectively load a mold cavity with a molding material. Further, it should be mentioned that extruding and injecting are well-known substitutable alternatives for

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loading a mold cavity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to deposit the molten thermoplastic material onto the core by extrusion rather than injection since they are substitutable alternatives.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 6-12, 13-16, 18-19 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Matsumoto et al (USPN 5759464) teach a method of making a trim panel (figs 8-12); and using a slide having a recess and a blade disposable in the recess (figs 8-12). Both Fujita et al (USPN 4873045) and Rehm et al (USPN 6027678) teach extruding a molding material into a mold cavity. Ota et al (USPN 5776509) teach loading a trim blank into a slip device on a mold.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571.272.1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

EHL


2/9/04